

Facts, Features and (occasional) Fallacies reported in Cambridge Newspapers

Mike Petty



Mildenhall Scrapbook 1897 to 1990

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reported in Cambridge Newspapers

summarised by

Mike Petty

Most of these stories originally appeared in the Cambridge Daily/Evening/News or the
Cambridgeshire Weekly News, its sister title.

They are supplemented by some articles published in the
Cambridge Independent Press or Cambridge Chronicle

Most were featured in my 'Looking Back' column in the Cambridge News from 1996-2014

The complete 'Cambridgeshire Scrapbook' of which this is a small section is published online at
bit.ly/CambsCollection

I have digital and other copies of most of the stories summarised.
I hope to publish these online one day. If you would like them in the meantime then please get in
touch.

The original volumes are housed in the Cambridgeshire Collection at Cambridge Central Library
where there are many other indexes dating back to 1770.

They also have detailed newspaper cuttings files on over 750 topics that have been compiled since the
1960s.

Newspapers sometimes get things wrong. I copy things out incorrectly. Do check

There are a multitude of spelling and layout errors. Please forgive or correct them

News never stops but this file was finished on 31 August 2016.

I will maintain supplements and corrections – contact me for anything you need

Please make what use of these notes that you may. Kindly remember where they came from

See my website – www.mikepetty.org.uk for further notes.

Mike Petty, Stretham

2017

1897 09 14

The Market place at Mildenhall was early on Monday morning the scene of a disastrous fire. The outbreak occurred between the warehouse of Messrs Firth Bros, grocers and drapers, and that of Mr C. Morley, furniture dealer. The fire spread rapidly, the warehouses being of an inflammable nature; the goods stored were also highly inflammable and seven barrels of petroleum exploded. The Mildenhall Fire Brigade was promptly on the spot with their two manual engines. A granary filled with straw ignited but was successfully dealt with by the firemen, or it is probable the White Hart Hotel would have been in immediate danger. Owing to the proximity of the fire to the bank, the agent thought it desirable to remove the cash and securities from the office. After two hours hard work the brigade managed to cut off the burning building, but it was a narrow escape for the whole of the side of the Market Square

1898 06 10

It will be with sincere regret that the inhabitants of the Newmarket and Mildenhall districts will learn of the impending retirement from the West Suffolk police force of Superintendent Samuel Garnham Reeve. During the whole of his career he has been a highly respected and popular officer and has been connected with the force no fewer than 46 years, 15 of which have been spent as superintendent of the Mildenhall Division. His resignation is on account of acute deafness, brought about by rough usage, which he has received at various times in the execution of his duty. He started his career as a police constable in June 1852 and is the oldest police officer in service in the county of Suffolk

1898 07 11

Messrs Green, Moyes and Wisbey attended the Lion Hotel, Cambridge, and offered by auction several beerhouses. The Lion and Lamb at Denver sold for £765. The Queen's Head at Hilgay realised £510. Lot three was the freehold beer house known as the Volunteer, Mildenhall which, together with a cottage, realised £710. The Swan beerhouse Isleham realised £460. The last lot was the fully licensed freehold public house in East Road, Cambridge known by the sign of the Red Lion. The bidding started at £600, and ultimately reached £975 at which figure it was disposed of. The prices realised are considered very satisfactory by the vendors.

1898 07 15

Mildenhall horticultural show

1900 07 06

The Society of the Sacred Mission has its headquarters at Mildenhall. Its aim is to establish a monastic settlement to train lay and clerical brothers, both boys and men, for foreign and home mission work. Its inhabitants mostly wear the dress of the monks of the Roman Church, there are eight services in the day, and silence is obligatory at all meals and always till noon. It was here that young Cavalier was received in the summer of 1898, the boy's parents being kept in ignorance of his whereabouts for many weeks

1901 02 27

Mildenhall cellar fall, p3

1901 08 05

A man named Lock, who was at work on the land at Eriswell, was struck by lightning; his coat and waistcoat were much scorched, but, strange to say, the man was uninjured other than from the shock. About the same time a tree was struck near Wamil Hall, Mildenhall. At St Ives the rain poured down in torrents and the streets in many instances were flooded, owing to the drains not being able to carry off the extraordinary rush of water. 01 08 05

1906 11 24

The Motor Van, Wagon and Omnibus Users Association is to test the legality of the Great Eastern Railway Company in putting up notices on a number of bridges over the Cambridge and Mildenhall line prohibiting heavy motor vehicles from passing over them. This would close a large tract of country to such traffic. Engineers say the bridges are strong enough but have been allowed to get into a state of disrepair. 06 11 24b # c.26.2

19009 07 23

On the banks of the river at Mildenhall, with its barges and locks and cheerful suggestions of commerce, stands an imposing stone building quite new, evidently a corn warehouse. However it has an inscription engraved in the stone: 'Established 1066. Rebuilt 1908'. If it really was started when Duke William fought the Battle of Hastings it must be quite the most ancient thing in East Anglia. It stands on the banks of the historic Lark – but I am not going to suggest that the inscription is also an historic lark. 09 07 23

1911 05 05

Wamill Hall is a picturesque Elizabethan Manor House approached from West Row, Mildenhall by a drive of half-mile in length, with old fashioned gardens, and a lawn sloping to the river. Together with a farm of 260 acres with numerous buildings and shooting rights it failed to sell at auction, being withdrawn at £9,000. Another nearby sporting estate, 'The Woodlands', in the midst of pine woods did not attract a bid. They formed part of the most important auction sale ever remembered at Ely. 11 05 05d & e

1912 10 18

Mildenhall workhouse inmate tries stab man in bus at Ely – 12 10 18g

1912 12 06

Wamil Hall, the historic pile of buildings near Worlington was discovered to be on fire. The nurse raised the alarm and staff made efforts to stop it; Mr Munns the butler sustained injuries to his foot and Mr Davies got his hand and fingers burnt. Mildenhall & West Row firemen turned out promptly but the back part of the house was well alight with flames coming through the window. The kitchen, day nursery, night nursery and other room were consumed. Wamil Hall was partially burnt about 14 years ago but the fire was then at the other end of the building. 12 12 06a

1921 08 24

Mildenhall flour mill gutted – 21 08 24g

1923 09 03

It is claimed that a record was set up when a woman, aged 106, appealed to be put on the voters list at Mildenhall. She was Mrs Lowther, of Tuddenham, and her claim, pressed by Mr Elton Halliday, was successful. In spite of her age, Mrs Lowther still takes much interest in politics, and knows a great deal about parties and policies

1930 06 06

Further revelations of the escapades of the undergraduate involved in the King's College shooting have caused University authorities to make searching inquiries into the habits of undergraduates. The lad had surrounded himself with an atmosphere of false romance; he paid frequent visits to the Bell Hotel at Mildenhall. The landlord's daughter described him as 'a very nice boy, but terribly eccentric'. He always came in second-hand cars, but never in the same car twice, and spent time playing the gramophone. He always left in time to get back to college before the gates closed. 30 06 06b

1934 10 16

Col Roscoe Turner and Clyde Pangbourn, the Americans, arrived at Mildenhall for the England to Melbourne air race. Their plane, a huge dull grey Boeing Transport, was the 15th to reach Beck Row.

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Another machine landed on the old aerodrome at Conington. No damage was done, the monoplane being forced down through engine trouble. The pilot was Mr Lowdell, and the 'plane has been entered by Lord Nuffield. Mechanics were at work on the machine early this morning. Competitors are to see a film of the route to Australia at Mildenhall Town Hall on Thursday. 34 10 16

1934 10 19

Mildenhall air race to Australia – 34 10 19, 34 10 20

1935 04 25

An East Anglian Egg Packing Station was opened at Mildenhall with up-to-date machines for handling and grading eggs which will mainly be sold in the London market. 35 04 25

1935 05 08

Newmarket & Mildenhall jubilee celebrations – 35 05 08

1935 07 02

The largest number of British warplanes ever assembled in one spot have arrived at RAF Mildenhall for the Silver Jubilee review. Three hundred and fifty in number, from 38 squadrons, 'planes of the bomber, night bomber and fighter type have turned the green aerodrome into a sea of silver. But poor visibility caused the practice take-off to be postponed twice and owing to the time it takes to get airborne only 200 of them will actually participate in the fly-past 35 07 02a

1935 07 05

Excitement was caused at Mildenhall where the 350 aeroplanes – worth practically £1,000,000 – are assembled for the Royal review when fire broke out at Horrox sawmills, about a mile away from the aerodrome. The Royal Air Force received a telephone call asking for help and a lorry load of men armed with fire extinguishers was despatched together with a fire engine. It was the luckiest chance that the wind was blowing away at the time otherwise the fire would have spread with lightning rapidity and there would have been a danger of it reaching as far as the aerodrome. 35 07 05c

1935 07 05

The King had 'Jubilee Weather' for his review of the Royal Air Force at Mildenhall Aerodrome where he inspected 28 squadrons of the RAF – five miles of aircraft in all – on the vast landing ground. The machines ranged from tiny 230 mph Gauntlets to giant bombers. Twice he left his car to learn some of the secrets of our latest flying machines including the power-driven machine guns mounted in the turret of an Overstrand bomber 35 07 05 & a

1935 07 05

Royal air force review, Mildenhall – 35 07 05c 35 07 06, 35 07 06a, 35 07 06b, 35 07 08

1935 12 06

Mildenhall water, Littleport electricity – 35 12 06a

1935 12 20

The judge agreed that police had been wrong to seize copies of a pamphlet from a member of the Cambridge Scientist's Anti-War Group at Duxford aerodrome during the Royal Review. They'd been worried following an earlier incident at Mildenhall when a misguided female threw a paper at the King's car. 'The Anti-War Special' was crude, inartistic and in some respects childish. It had been sold by Dr Wooster supported by a bevy of satellites, mainly ladies, wearing badges of a reddish hue. Various ex-servicemen had expressed themselves in vituperative terms and its distribution might have lead to a breach of the peace 35 12 20 & a

1936 07 08

Mildenhall aerodrome, scene of the first Royal Review of the British Air Force, was further honoured when King Edward visited the station during the first flying tour of R.A.F. stations ever undertaken by a reigning Monarch. After the scarlet and blue Dragon Rapide came to a halt the King inspected three

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bomber squadrons, two of Handley Page Heyfords and the third Hawker Hinds, and toured the Airmen's Barrack Block. As the visit was entirely unofficial only a mere handful of people knew. 36 07 08

1936 07 09

Royal visit to Mildenhall – photo – 36 07 09

1936 08 06

Mildenhall St Margaret's Chapel altar stone re-dedicated – 36 08 06

1936 08 08

Greene, King and Sons of Bury St Edmunds presented the parish of Mildenhall with their old fire tender that was converted from a lorry by the workmen at the brewery. No longer will the parish council have to hire a motor to haul their steam engine to fires. They will now do all in their power to maintain an efficient brigade as far as funds would allow, for in the event of war air raids would mean the destruction of life and property. Despite torrential rain hundreds turned out on the Market Place to show their appreciation. 36 08 08

1937 04 08

The new chapel for the use of troops at Mildenhall RAF station was dedicated. The Bishop said that in the past they had to wait a long time for a camp to be equipped with such a place of worship. Now it came at the start of construction. Everyone was sorry that the state of the world meant they could not do without great defences. But they were proud of the Air Force and the devotion shown in the minds of those ready to join in. The men should consider their influence as a body in the parish in which they were living and take care it was a good one. 37 04 08a

1937 10 19

Major-General Ernst Udet, ace pilot during the war, was amongst top German airmen who inspected two squadrons of giant Heyford bombers and the latest Battle Bristol-Blenheims, Harrow, Wellesey and Whitley aircraft at R.A.F. Mildenhall. They went into the body of the Harrow plane and three sat in the cockpit of one of the others before watching the engines starting. The visitors, some carrying small dress daggers, also toured the station buildings including the mobile wireless transmitting, photographic and automatic control sections. 37 10 19 & a

1937 11 08

Sir – I have 4,000 acres in Mildenhall parish so derelict that they cannot be farmed and bring ruin to the families who try it. Given one road to join the five cul-de-sacs and a bridge over the River Lark to a similar road in Cambridgeshire, all these families could get their sugar beet to Ely factory. If the counties won't share the cost of a bridge, a mile of Suffolk road would save the bank where it broke and temporarily corked itself one Sunday morning. It was almost a miracle that the fen floods did not culminate in a great and tragic disaster. But the banks and roads remain bones of contention in various stages of deadlock – Rev J. E. Sawbridge, vicar 37 11 08

1937 11 18

Mildenhall fen farmers let land go out of cultivation to avoid tithe – 37 11 18b

1938 03 04

George Samuel Morley, 76, a retired market gardener of West Row is homeless after his 350-year-old farmhouse was burnt to the ground. It was originally three cottages made of lathe and plaster and thatched but within an hour it was completely gutted. Mildenhall fire brigade, with their steamer, were joined by Mildenhall R.A.F. tender and thanks to an inexhaustible supply of water for a 12-foot deep well were able to save a large barn, the Plough Inn and adjacent cottages 38 03 04c

938 04 08

George Wybrew started his railway career in 1892 as a clerk at Sawbridgeworth from which he was transferred to Bishop's Stortford, Liverpool Street and finally to Haverhill. He was appointed stationmaster at Stretham in 1912, then went to Burwell and Mildenhall. In 1927 he was made stationmaster at Saffron Walden and since 1930 has also been in charge of Audley End station. He believes that in spite of the ever-increasing road transport the railways, which have reached a high degree of efficiency, are unrivalled for speed and safety 38 04 08a

1938 08 08

Some 900 aircraft are taking part in an exercise testing the air defence of Great Britain. The attacking force will have 36 bomber squadrons (some from Bassingbourn and Wyton) while the defenders will consist of 23 fighter squadrons and 14 bomber squadrons, including planes from Duxford, Debden, Feltwell, Mildenhall and Stradishall. Anti-aircraft and searchlight batteries will be spread across the Eastern Counties. Bombers will fly without navigation lights unless other aircraft approach and fighters are forbidden from attacking below 1,000 ft 38 08 05a plane crashes at Melbourn – 38 08 08. Mayor made tour of town, all in darkness apart from one or two lighted windows – 38 08 08b

1938 12 24

A farmer from West Row was fined for making and constructing a dam at no.6 culvert, Cooks Drove Drain, Mildenhall Fen without the consent of the Fen Drainage Board. The obstruction caused a settlement of the culvert heading causing a crack in the brickwork. The farmer said he'd put a board in the drain to supply water to his cattle 38 12 24

1948 06 01

What is thought to be the biggest earth tremor in East Anglia since 1757 occurred in the King's Lynn, Bury St Edmunds, Mildenhall and Cambridge area last Friday. Observers distinctly felt it. In some places it was accompanied by a rumbling noise. A Cambridge resident said; "I distinctly felt a 'bubbling' movement and heard a slight rumbling noise while sitting in the living room after tea. I took no further notice, however, thinking it may have been a passing bus or heavy vehicle"

1949 01 14

The Lancaster squadrons of the No.3 Bomber Group at present stationed at Stradishall, are shortly to move to Mildenhall. The change has been made necessary because the run-ways at "Strad" are no longer capable of taking heavy bombers. The future of this famous war-time airfield, still one of the most attractive and best equipped in the country, is uncertain. Lighter aircraft might operate from the runways or they may be relaid to take the heaviest type of bomber at present in service with the RAF

1950 10 11

The crew of 11 of a USAAF B50 Super Fortress escaped when it crash-landed in flames at Mildenhall last night. The aircraft was returning from a routine flight and had one engine feathered. The right wing tip caught the runway and the external petrol tank burst into flames. The aircraft slid, burning furiously, for 500 yards but the crew scrambled to safety and were uninjured. The aircraft was a total loss

1951 02 06

A man, who sold ice cream from a van outside Lakenheath airfield and took the opportunity to indulge in illegal purchase of American un-customed cigarettes, told Mildenhall magistrates a hard luck story and broke down in court. A customs officer said he kept watch on the van. About 10 American soldiers, whose PX or NAAFI was quite close approached with cigarettes, some bought ice cream. Selling ice cream outside an American camp is rather like taking coal to Newcastle, he commented.

1951 02 23

Do you know that by lifting up a telephone you can get details – free – of the weather in Cambridgeshire in the next 24-30 hours. Mildenhall 2281 is the number of the Meteorological Office on Mildenhall airfield. Details can also be obtain by reply-paid telegram

1951 08 29

An American F.84 Thunderjet hurtled out of control between the houses on either side of St John's Street, Beck Row and finally crashed outside the police station, killing the pilot. Several houses were damaged by pieces of wreckage but there were no civilian casualties. The aircraft, carrying out a routine flight over Mildenhall airfield, struck the runway with a wing when doing a banking turn. The pilot attempted to regain control but the aircraft hit the wing of a bomber standing near, ripping it off. It flew down the road with bits of wreckage falling off it. Then the tailplane fell off and it crashed.

1951 09 05

In common with other towns situated near American servicemen's camps, Cambridge is rapidly becoming one of the leading Black Market centres for disposal of duty-free tobacco purchased at U.S. canteens by G.I.s and subsequently sold at a handsome profit in small back-street shops and hotels, with no questions asked. This trafficking is difficult to stop and is now a well-established through unofficial "Big Business". Despite checks by security officers at Lakenheath and Mildenhall aerodromes car loads of cigarettes by the thousand are coming into the City.

1952 02 05

The CDN has added, for one week only, a new publication to the list of eight newspapers which it currently prints each week – an American newspaper. "Brigade Cavalcade" was produced to mark the first anniversary in the U.K. of the 32nd Antiaircraft Artillery Brigade of the U.S. Army. Its editorial offices are a battered war-time hutment overlooking the huge aircraft runway at Beck Row. After a lifetime of spelling English in an orthodox manner it was difficult for our printers to set words like honour and colour without the 'u', and the practised fingers of a linotype operator rebelled against copy which insists that programme should shed its last two letters. 52 02 05

1952 06 30

If ever a stunt fell flat it was the Pacifist demonstration at Mildenhall U.S.A.F. base. Stretched out on their beam ends in front of the main gates, two young women made a courageous but futile attempt to persuade a handful of American servicemen that they would be better off at home. The demonstrators were fighting a losing battle before they started. Earlier Mildenhall Market Place had seen some fun when the 17 Pacifist stalwarts gathered to embark on their "Operation Ghandi". After tramping the hot and dusty miles to the air base for the squatting performance the would-be builders of world peace returned for a public meeting. But an indifferent crowd could hardly have cared less.

1952 11 18

Mildenhall readers are reminded that the Night Final editions of the C.D.N. is now available at about 5.20 each evening and new arrangements have been made for its regular delivery. Orders can be given to Mr A. Ayes of Beck Row or left at his table inside the Bell Hotel, Mildenhall. The News contains full reports of all local happenings in the area. Persons who have news items should contact out Mildenhall correspondent, Mrs Mary Smith in Manor Road.

1952 11 24

There was confirmation from Newmarket of the Cambridge flying saucer report. Mr J. Beirne reported seeing 'a definite circular object while cycling along Madingley Road, Cambridge. Now comes a report from a bus conductor of seeing a 'bright cigar-shaped object' flying at great speed at Newmarket. It gave out an orange-coloured tint and was fire by three small tappets at the rear. There have been isolated cases of practical demonstrations of guided missiles being carried out in the Mildenhall area and on the Norfolk coast. These guided weapons are known to be capable of speeds over 2,000 m.p.h.

1953 10 05

Ninety British schoolchildren got an inside view of a U.S. Air Force base at a special "National Kids' Day" open house at Mildenhall. The all-day programme included a sight-seeing tour of base headquarters, technical sites and runways. At the base fire department the children tried on fire helmets, asbestos fire-fighting suits and rang the bells of the big fire trucks. At the control tower they listened to radio directions to pilots and a full day of entertainment was topped-off with group singing and refreshments in the Service Club.

1953 10 31

The Headquarters of the U.S. Army's 32nd Anti-aircraft Artillery Brigade has moved from Mildenhall where it has been since 1951. The Commanding Officer wrote to the Mayor of Cambridge to express appreciation for the splendid hospitality shown; many personnel have resided in the area and lasting friendships have developed which will contribute to a closer relationship and stronger bond of understanding between the British people and the American forces.

1953 11 05

The navigator of a RAF Canberra jet bomber was rescued when the plane crashed into a café at Beck Row, near Mildenhall. The pilot was killed. The proprietor of the café said the plane destroyed the back of his premises, smashed his kitchen table, flattened his car and plunged the whole place into darkness. The jet finished up in his back garden, straddling a chicken run and churning up his vegetables. It must have missed the roof by inches and it was a miracle no one in the café was killed.

1954 02 22

An Irish lorry driver employed as a scavenger on the Mildenhall U.S.A.F. base was fined for stealing a chicken. When seen plucking the bird on the air base he told police that the fowl had been caught by his Alsatian dog. But he told the court that the bird had escaped from its owner's premises through a hole in a fence. "I'm afraid it will be an expensive chicken", the magistrate told him, "You will have to pay £5 for it"

1954 04 01

Haverhill National Farmers' Union protested against the proposal to build a new town there. If they were forced to take in some of London's overspill population it would have a disastrous effect on local agriculture. There was a reasonable supply of agricultural work in the district but the introduction of industry would mean that it would dwindle. There were more suitable places to house the overspill population: the 'scrublands' of Thetford and Mildenhall and at Harlow New Town there had been difficulty in keeping the Londoners from going back to London

1955 02 21

Policeman found coke in car. Two men appeared in court charged with the theft of 112 lbs of gas coke valued at 6s 6d from Mildenhall Gas Works. Police told how they stopped a car and found three bags of coke; the men claimed it was 'breeze' – a residue of coke that is sold in bulk for hardcore, but it was found to be good clean coke. Defendant said he left three empty sacks with a gas foreman on Friday and collected them again – full - on Sunday mornings. Both were convicted. 55 02 21

1955 02 24

American authorities at Lakenheath and Mildenhall are to be asked to take steps to minimise the number of road accidents involving American car owners. The stretch of road from Barton Mills to Brandon has the blackest record of any in England. The hazards have been increased by Americans would are not conversant with road conditions in this country and drove left-hand drive vehicles. A number were being summonsed for road offences. A Brandon man was run into by an uninsured American. He had received £5 compensation and did not look like getting any more, yet he was incapacitated for life. None of this is calculated to improve Anglo-American relations. 55 02 24

1955 03 04

British Railways had considered closing the Cambridge-Mildenhall line because of its steady loss in revenue and uneconomic running costs. But now they hope that by the introduction of two-car diesel units and cheaper fares they can make the line a paying proposition. But people in Isleham had to walk to the station and in some instances this was three miles away; others had to go to Kennett station. They wanted convenience and had petitioned for a bus service. Messrs Murfet's would provide a bus into Cambridge for those who wished to shop or visit the cattle market; it would also serve Chippenham and Snailwell. 55 03 04

1955 09 14

Whitings Farm, Holywell Row, Mildenhall had been in size reduced when 60 acres were acquired by the Air Ministry. It was full of weeds and rubbish, some of the fields were sour and the hedges and ditches in need of attention. The tenant was a poor farmer and it should be returned to the landlord who would farm it better. But he had lost barley seed and four inches of topsoil in dust storms & was making the best use of inherently bad land. He was a Grade 'A' farmer and should be allowed to continue, an inquiry decided. 55 09 14a

1956 02 03

One of Britain's best-known figures, Sabrina – TV's 40, 22, 26 dumb blonde – made a personal appearance at a Mildenhall air base dance in aid of polio relief. She attended free of charge for she had been a polio sufferer herself and nearly lost a leg as a result. She sang four songs, surprisingly well, and autographed photographs for a host of admirers. 56 02 03a

1956 06 30

Lightning struck a farm building containing valuable implements at Hall Farm, Barton Mills. The thatched roof caught light and £2,500 worth of equipment was destroyed; only one tractor was saved. A life insurance agent who was at the farm at the time used a fire extinguisher while the owner summoned the fire brigade. A Mildenhall man saw the flash of lightning and thought 'a ball of fire' had fallen on the farm. 56 06 30a

1956 07 28

All four members of the crew of an American B.47 strato-jet were killed when it crashed a caught fire at Lakenheath air base while practising landings and take-offs. American fire-fighters were joined by the Mildenhall Fire Service in extinguishing the blaze and personnel working in buildings nearby were evacuated because of the danger of fuel tanks exploding. The B.47 is a swept-wing medium bomber designed to carry a bomb load of 20,000 lbs and can carry an Atomic Bomb. 56 07 28a

1956 08 08

An American airman from RAF Mildenhall appeared in court. He had been driving his powerful American car along the Bury Road when he suddenly swerved, demolished the A.A. box at the Tollbar and went along the grass verge before continuing on his way. He was fined £12 for driving in a dangerous manner and £1 for parking at Snailwell without lights. 56 08 08

1957 04 18

Archaeologists led by Prof. Grahame Clark are excavating a Neolithic site at Mildenhall. Hurst Fen is a wild and desolate stretch of boggy heathland not far from the man Brandon road. Lady Briscoe of Lakenheath Hall investigated pieces of pottery and now polished flint axes, arrowheads and scrapers have been found, proving that 4,000 years ago there was a small community living in primitive huts. But the fen soil has destroyed all traces of bones. 57 04 18

1957 04 29

Two Cambridge girls were taken to Newmarket Hospital on Saturday night after an American Service Jeep in which they were travelling crashed through the Mill Street Bridge in Mildenhall and fell into the river. Five American servicemen who were also in the vehicle were taken to a base hospital at

Lakenheath. The bridge has only recently had temporary repairs carried out after an American truck damaged it in two places. 57 04 29d

1958 02 26

Wamil Hall which stands beside the River Lark at Mildenhall was badly damaged by fire. About two thirds of the building was destroyed. A Newmarket fire engine equipped with skid chains completed the journey in 15 minutes, a remarkable feat in view of the state of the roads to this isolated spot. The Hall contains a secret passage and a 'ghost-walk'. "Old Lady Rainbow" haunts the house and neighbouring plantations. It was built about 1570 and has suffered other disastrous fires in 1895 and 1912. 58 02 26a

1959 02 12

The United States Air Force hospital located at Wimpole Hall will move to RAF stations at Mildenhall and Lakenheath later this year. The move will affect 300 US military personnel and 95 UK civilians. The facilities are on private land and this has to be handed back to the owner by the end of 1959. They were constructed by the British Ministry of Works in 1943 and operated by the US Army until 1945. In 1951 the 7510th USAF Hospital was stationed there. 59 02 12

1959 02 12

Lard, butter, cheese, tea and soup powder was amongst stock worth over £1,000 destroyed when fire broke out in a warehouse at the rear of Ecclestone's Stores in Mill Street, Mildenhall. Firemen found flames spurting from the windows of the two-storey building but managed to prevent it from spreading to the shop, the house and the Post Office which forms part of the premises. 59 02 12a

1959 04 23

The Air Ministry says the warning light on Ely Cathedral is no longer needed now that the airfield at Witchford is closed. Aircraft from Mildenhall are routed well above the height of the tower. But many people have been disturbed by extremely low-flying aircraft during the hours of darkness and US aircraft might not be fully aware of the geography of the country. Many other cathedrals had lights on them and if there was the faintest possibility of danger they should be replaced. 59 04 23

1959 08 20

Mildenhall parking restrictions had been under consideration since 1951 and a car park provided. Now Councillors want to prevent parking in St Andrew's Street. Fred Lock, who lived in the street, was in favour: he never saw the light of day in his house because of lorries being parked outside. But the proprietor of St Andrew's Café said his trade would be seriously affected and the street should be made one-way. 59 08 20

1960 03 14

Mildenhall USAF miniature airlift 60 03 14

1960 05 27

Some 1,800 military and civilian personnel are working at the US base at Mildenhall and there are ample facilities for them. It is unusual not to see at least one game of baseball in progress with volleyball and horseshoes also popular. This involves throwing a horseshoe around an upright stake. The religious life is catered for in an 'universal' chapel and they are encouraged to worship in British churches and chapels as well. There is a dance almost every weekend and a weekly floor show in which British and American stars appear. Most of the American children go to a school on the USAF base at Lakenheath and the wives have their own social clubs. 60 05 27a

1961 07 21

USAF Mildenhall had 8,000 passengers in June – an all-time record – 61 07 21a

1961 08 16

There does not seem to be any serious outrage about Bingo in Saffron Walden. The Carnival Association and the British Legion are making plans for sessions and John Gotch, proprietor of the Plaza Cinema is sending his assistant and an usherette to Mildenhall to find out how it is played and run. But the manager of the Walden Cinema thinks Bingo is a new craze which will die a natural death and the Secretary of the Free Church Council says it seems to be a singularly boring pursuit 61 08 16a

1961 09 14

Lord Iveagh, chairman of Guinness, who owns the Elveden Farms near Thetford, performed the opening ceremony at a new dairy at Mildenhall. The Bridge Farm Dairies premises deal with all the milk from the estate, distributing it within a 15-mile radius. 61 09 14

1961 11 15

Mildenhall Railway line inspected – BR want to close it – 61 11 15b

1961 12 20

The railway line between Cambridge and Mildenhall opened on Whit Monday 1884 with the Fordham to Mildenhall extension nine months later. The branch line was probably never self-supporting and today there are two trains daily. All the villages between Barnwell and Fordham are well served by buses and it is only Mildenhall and Isleham that do not have a satisfactory alternative service. All existing parcel facilities would remain except at Isleham and Quy stations which would be reduced to unstaffed sidings. Even at Quy staff would be provided during the heavy sugar beet season to assist farmers loading traffic, an Inquiry heard. 61 12 20a & b

1962 03 02

Wamil Hall, Mildenhall, has been damaged by fire three times in the last 63 years but is still one of the most beautiful houses in the area. At the end of the last century the ground floor was damaged and the tenant, a big game hunter, left the hall with his salvaged possessions in a barge for King's Lynn, using the then-navigable River Lark which flows nearby. Then in 1912 the East end had to be rebuilt after a fire and the structure was drastically changed after the last fire of 1958 which gutted the main part of the building and destroyed the main staircase 62 03 02a

1962 08 07

The annual tug-of-war over Reach Lode went ahead as planned despite heavy rain and was watched by a large crowd in mackintoshes and Wellington boots. The first match was between married men and bachelors, the second featured an American team from Mildenhall who found the appalling conditions too difficult and were beaten by local men more used to them. However they braved the cold water into which they were pulled cheerfully. All proceeds 62 08 07

1962 12 07

Two railway lines in Cambridgeshire are under threat following Dr Beeching's proposals. All lines transporting less than 10,000 people and 10,000 tons of freight a week may close. This includes the line from Cambridge through Histon and Oakington and the one to Mildenhall through Burwell. Fruit growers would be seriously affected and have to switch to road transport, putting up prices. Rural bus services are another failure of Government policy and had been cut because they were unprofitable, a Labour meeting was told 62 12 07c

1963 07 10

A court heard of a secret meeting along the Cambridge-Newmarket Road once a week when American cigarettes and bottles of spirits were exchanged. An Isleham labourer pleaded guilty to five charges involving two cameras, 6,460 cigarettes, 44 bottles of spirits and one bottle of wine on which duty had not been paid. While working at Mickey's tea bar at RAF Mildenhall he'd lent money to American servicemen was paid back partly in cigarettes. Later an airman asked him to sell liquor for him to a 'gypsy-looking man' in a pub near Cambridge Market 63 07 10

1963 09 20

New York is just eight hours away from Cambridge for many American families. Direct flights by the military version of the Boeing 707 jet liners or C118 transport aircraft are operated daily between Mildenhall airfield and McGuire Airfield on the outskirts of New York. About 80,000 travellers, most being wives and families of serving airmen, enter or leave the country through here; a large hotel has been built for passengers catching an early flight with nearly 5,000 accommodated there each month.

63 09 20

1964 02 14

Mildenhall parish church organist, William Sturgeon, composes hymns – 64 02 14a

1964 07 11

With a shuddering roar, a diesel locomotive disturbed the sleepy silence of Mildenhall railway station and with four empty wagons trundled away on the last trip to Cambridge. The station's freight line, which opened in 1885, had fallen under the Beeching axe. The stationmaster, Mr N.S. Sykes, stood on the platform among weeds and wild flowers and waved as the train pulled out. Passenger services were withdrawn in 1961 and freight limited to coal, cattle seed and worn tyres which were sent to Harwich for export. 64 07 11

1964 08 29

"The Images", four youths who formed their own rock group, played in public for the first time at a Littleport charity function. About 300 children gave them a rousing welcome that would not have disgraced Beatle fans. Tony Gipp of Burnt Fen manages the group which includes David Kerridge (lead guitar), John Summers (rhythm guitar), John Drake from Little Ouse (bass) and Michael Taylor from Mildenhall (drums). They are the first rock group to be formed in Littleport 64 08 29

1964 11 06

Rev C.F. Bosley the vicar of Mildenhall is one of busiest in England. He also ministers at West Row, Kenny Hill and Beck Row and drives 2,000 miles a year to hold services in at least three of them each Sunday. This year he held eight harvest festival services. The parish used to have three curates but now there is only one so he relies on his lay readers. But all the parochial work is multiplied by four and he wonders how long he can keep up the pace 64 11 06a

1954 11 30

Rozel Court at Beck Row, Mildenhall, which was bought with the intention of growing Christmas trees, has planning permission for 64 caravans. Now it will have become a permanent caravan site where old people can retire in comfort. It has telephones, electricity and inside flush lavatories while local tradesmen call each week and a bus takes residents for shopping expeditions to Bury St Edmunds. There is a social club and tenants pay two shillings a week to pay for annual outings. It is a solution to the problem of active old age and is giving caravanning a better image 64 11 30

1965 01 08

Mildenhall picture feature – 65 01 08b

1965 01 17

Mildenhall overspill town – feature – 65 01 27, 27b;

1965 02 24

No coloured workmen will be accepted under first stage Mildenhall development as people 'would not be happy to see them' – 65 02 24a

1963 03 03

Mildenhall colour row grows – 65 03 03; grant approved despite colour bar issue – 65 03 03d

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1965 04 14

Mildenhall overspill houses - photo – 65 04 14a

1965 10 12

Mildenhall railway station derelict – photo – 65 10 12g

1972 04 08

Mildenhall parochial church council got a shock when they diligently followed their Archdeacon's advice to see their church was adequately insured. For the 13th-century church which has a unique "angel roof" was valued at a quarter of a million pounds with an annual premium of £620 to pay - which they cannot afford. The Vicar of Mildenhall, the Rev Frank Bosley said "It was a tremendous shock to us". He said the diocesan quota was £625 a year and amounts were paid for cleaning and heating the church as well as to the curate and vicar. The vicar is still trying to raise £5,000 to complete a £12,000 roof repair appeal

1972 11 03

Pity the poor dogs of Huntingdon, Haverhill, St Neots and Mildenhall. An R.S.P.C.A. inspector said: "Many Londoners come down to places like Haverhill and feel they are in the country for the first time. They've not been allowed to keep animals before and their first thought is: 'Now we can have a pet'. They usually get a Labrador dog without thinking how big it will grow". Lack of time to give the animals sufficient exercise and a small garden often resulted in its being turned out on the streets and this was when the dogs joined up in packs to roam together. At St Neots the dogs roamed the estates in packs all day, frightening children and old people.

1973 01 24

The overspill agreement that aimed at changing Mildenhall from a sleepy West Suffolk village to a small rural industrial town was signed on March 31, 1965 between the Rural Council and the then London County Council. Now with the scheme at the half-way stage the question can be asked: How has it worked? Almost 50 acres of land has been allocated to new industry, all of which has been taken up. With a block of 200 homes nearing completion in Clare Close and St John's Close 700 new homes will have been built. The earliest problem, overspill families returning to London dissatisfied with the few amenities is beginning to be overcome but leaves in its wake a difficulty in finding skilled labour

1973 03 13

A change in the system of Government financial aid to developing towns will severely affect industrial schemes in mid-Anglia. Huntingdon councillors were last night dismayed by the impact of the new system and Mildenhall are seeking talks with Government to offset the problems it will create for the town. At Haverhill the council are less worried because industrial expansion is fairly well advanced in the town. St Neots is not affected because they do not rely on the Greater London Council for providing these funds. Expanding towns have been borrowing money freely from the G.L.C. to finance non-key scheme such as industrial expansion projects. Now this will be more difficult

1973 08 07

Shopping and traffic surveys are being prepared to support West Suffolk county council's oppositions to plans to build huge supermarkets in Kentford, near Newmarket and Saxham near Bury. Two firms have applied to build a hypermarket at Kentford, the latest outlines a 60,000 sq foot supermarket with parking for 400 cars. Despite outraged opposition from villagers Mildenhall rural council are supporting this plan. Their clerk said: "They feel these things are coming so we may as well have the rateable value as anybody else. It's a practical way of looking at it"

1973 09 07

One of the longest and fondest traditions in American military history came to an end yesterday when the very last Dakota DC3 to serve in Northern Europe made its final flight into Mildenhall air base. They used to call the plane the Gooney Bird because of its ungainly and awkward appearance on the ground. Right on schedule the US Navy plane flew in for a champagne reception at the Naval Air Facility, Mildenhall

1973 12 31

Much of what happens in Newmarket next year will be a continuation of this year's events. The by-pass will be opened, the George Lambton playing fields laid out on the Fordham Road, the Rookery and All Saints' areas developed and the swimming pool (maybe) started. But by far the greatest event is one in which the public has not been much interested – the joining of Newmarket and Mildenhall into one administrative body, Forest Heath district.

1974 04 02

Services which attract large numbers of people are being banned at Mildenhall Baptist church because of the state of the building. If it deteriorates any more, the congregation may have to abandon it. The minister, the Rev William Hitchcock, said he had to switch a wedding to his other church at West Row because of the large number of guests. "It's not that the building is unsafe, we are using all the premises for regular services, but we are anxious not to have a large number of people to crowd the building out just in case", he said

1975 08 05

President Ford flew into USAF Mildenhall for a 40-minute refuelling stop accompanied by the Secretary of State, Dr Henry Kissinger. He was greeted by thousands of servicemen with their families. Massive security was in operation, security men with pistols bulging under smart suits checked photographer's equipment and armed soldiers patrolled the entire base.

1975 09 03

Britain's most popular barmaid stooped the traffic in Mildenhall High Street when she opened a new grocery shop. Hundreds of housewives spilled out into the road while waiting to catch a glimpse of Bet Lynch, the buxom blonde from behind the bar of the Rovers Return in 'Coronation Street'. Bet – Miss Julie Goodyear – spent almost two hours signing over 1,000 autographs in the new Spar supermarket shop before retiring to a back room to crack a giant bottle of champagne with the management.

1976 04 08

Fire swept through the part of Mildenhall's prestigious new shopping centre late last night, completely gutting three shops, badly damaging five others and causing thousands of pounds of damage. Twenty-four firemen took just 20 minutes to contain the blaze which started in a recently-opened menswear shop. The shops gutted by fire were Mark Audio a radio and tv shop, the Stateside menswear shop and Laurie Wallis a bookmaker

1977 05 23

Each Sunday thousands of spectators flock to the West Row stadium, Mildenhall to cheer on their heroes, the Fen Tigers. And the heroes do not have to be adults. One rider in the mixed pairs was Melvyn Taylor who is just 16 years old. The stadium has mushroomed from humble beginnings in a mere three years. There is a good pavilion, a large bar, a snack room and various caravans dispensing hot dogs, beer, ice creams, cups of hot drink and souvenirs. The riders themselves are a mixed bag; there are one or two professionals like captain Bob Coles and there are promising young riders from the area. Admission is 80p adults, 35p children

1977 09 06

A bleak future faces the expanding towns of Haverhill and Mildenhall if agreements with the greater London Council are terminated. There would be little further factory building, fewer new schools and

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an end to major road schemes such as bypasses. Haverhill was the first town development scheme; the population doubled in ten years and is now about 16,500. But all planning had been geared to a target population of 30,000 and a £1½ million sports and swimming pool complex and other amenities provided for a town of that size.

1977 10 26

The Jesus Green and Abbey outdoor swimming pools in Cambridge may be drained until early spring and turned into temporary skateboarding rinks. The Mayor has asked city council officers to look into the possibilities and if the investigation proves they can be used he will try and persuade the city council to approve the plan, thus bypassing the long and tedious committee procedure. Meanwhile Forest Heath District Council has decided that skateboarding is here to stay and accepted in principle a proposal to provide 'beginners' skateboarding tracks at Mildenhall, Newmarket and Brandon.

1978 08 23

A leakage of thousands of gallons of aircraft fuel at the Mildenhall American Air Force base may mean water supplies to 40,000 homes in the surrounding area will have to be cut off. The fuel is trapped underground near a bore-hole serving homes in the Ely and Littleport area. The Water Authority was informed on August 4th although the leakage had been discovered on July 18th when it was a kilometre from the bore-hole. Since then it had moved 200 metres but it was not clear whether it would eventually end up in the water supply. The oil is trapped in porous rocks and holes are being drilled to locate it. The USAF then hopes to pump the fuel to the surface.

1979 02 12

Sometime during the night of July 17th last year a one-inch fuel pipe running under Mildenhall air base fractured. It was only a small leak but it is only now that the disturbing consequences have become apparent. The fuel threatened a water bore hole that served the whole of Ely and Littleport and an emergency water pipe had to be laid. Although the pipeline is on an American air base, the British taxpayers will pay the bill which is likely to be in the region of half a million pounds

1981 10 15

The cellar of a rambling Victorian building in Newmarket, used to provide shelter for homeless families, has been converted into an emergency centre to cope with nuclear attack where a team of officials will direct survival operations if war breaks out. But spending cuts mean it has no sophisticated air filtration and drainage systems and is only lined with plasterboard. It was chosen because the council officers were too close to USAF bases at Mildenhall and Lakenheath. 81 10 15

1982 01 07

The Government has refused to pay any compensation for the massive pollution of water supplies which occurred after aircraft fuel leaked from tanks on the Mildenhall air base three years ago. One of the most productive water sources at Beck Row is still out of action and special pipelines have been laid to continue supplies. Now other toxic materials are threatening the underground reservoirs. It could cost hundreds of thousands of pounds to put right. 82 01 07

1982 04 02

The massive US Air Force bases at Lakenheath, Mildenhall and Alconbury spent £146 million with local businesses last year. It went on building work, equipment and services for the bases and housing for the 26,000 servicemen and their families – about half attached to Lakenheath. Many local people rent houses to Americans who spent £5.8 million eating out and visiting nearby places of interest last year 82 04 02

1982 10 26

Prince Charles visits USAF Mildenhall – 82 10 26

1982 12 31

Cambridge United, Joe Bugner and Mildenhall speedway all face tough tests in 1983. At the Abbey Stadium United are struggling to protect their Second Division status with the lowest home attendance and the worst away record in the Football League. Joe Bugner left St Ives in a failed attempt to swap his boxing gloves for the greasepaint in Hollywood. Now the big man is back with a couple of knockout victories. Meanwhile the Fen Tigers have built a stadium, won the championship and now want to bring world stars to West Row. 82 12 31

1983 02 17

Mildenhall Museum has started to convert two cottages on the Corner of King Street. They need extensive work – it seemed only the wallpaper was holding the property together - but will provide the basis for a museum for generations to come, said Dr Colin Dring, chairman of the trustees. 83 02 03
The Bird in Hand motel at Beck Row, Mildenhall, has been completely transformed with more oak panelling, double the floorspace and extra toilets to create a real English pub atmosphere. Not that it was doing badly before since it is on the fringe of the largest concentration of American servicemen in the country. They like experimenting and soon get a taste for English beef and Yorkshire pudding and Shepherd's Pie. 83 02 17b

1983 03 20

400 fans packed into Newmarket Cabaret Club for the final of the News Search for a Star competition. Ambitious showband 'CID' won first place with a spectacular set that amounted to a miniature concert. Second place went to 'Robonic', three teenagers from USAF bases at Lakenheath and Mildenhall and in third came Freddie Robinson whose zany act, combining singing and acrobatic dancing, plus a little juggling on the side, delighted the audience. 83 03 20 p9

1983 09 16

Military bases should have to pay realistic rates to local authorities, say Forest Heath District Council which includes the massive American bases at Lakenheath and Mildenhall. The council has a low rateable value because Crown Properties which also includes Government-owned buildings are exempt and pay a contribution instead of rates. But this is one-third of what would have been raised in the normal way. 83 09 16 p15

1984 04 24

Christians and anti-nuclear protestors from all over the country swarmed around the American air base at Lakenheath for a peace march and rally. About 1,000 'pilgrims' joined peace campers who had occupied heathland near the Mildenhall base since Palm Sunday. They included the General Secretary of CND, Monsignor Bruce Kent. 84 04 24 p12

1984 05 24

Red-clad followers of the Rajneesh cult rubbed shoulders with farm workers and land owners when a packed meeting in the tiny village of Herringwell near Mildenhall, voted in favour of having a parish council. The population has been virtually doubled by an influx of Rajneeshees, criticised for their 'free love' beliefs. Villagers fear that they are so different they cannot represent the views of the village but the director, Mr Anand Poonam assured the meeting they had no plan to dominate the parish council. 84 05 24 p13

1984 10 17

RAF Mildenhall had been officially open for just four days when, 50 years ago, it was used as the starting-point for an air race from England to Australia. It had no windsock, over-enthusiastic spectators damaged the aircraft and there was no accommodation for competitors or ground-crew, which led to pilots sleeping in the draughty hangars. Now two light aircraft will take off to retrace the flight path of the competitors. 84 10 17 p18

1985 05 21

Mildenhall could become the starting point for a river trip to London, the Inland Waterways Association says. With comparatively minor dredging the River Lark could be reopened to boats, giving the town a valuable tourist attraction and linking it to the country's network of rivers and canals. Craft once used to be able to travel from Ely to Bury St Edmunds but for the past 50 years the limit of navigation has been Judes Ferry at West Row. Since then the stretch upstream to Mildenhall has deteriorated. 85 05 21

1986 04 15

Lakenheath F-111 bombers took part in the air strike against Libya overnight. The 1,600 mph planes carrying 37,000lbs of bombs left just before 2am, their thunderous roar waking residents all over the area. The strike was orchestrated from USAF Mildenhall, European command headquarters of the 'Silk Purse' squadron kept on permanent standby for just such an operation. In peacetime it is mainly a transit base for US personnel, home of the 513th Tactical Airlift Wing and a refuelling tanker centre. It also plays host to the electronic spy planes, U2s and the SR-71 'Blackbirds' 86 04 15

1986 04 23

Blackie Children's Books will be publishing a new title, 'Happy Birthday Topsy and Tim' to mark the 25th anniversary of the stories written by Jean Adamson. She insists on a surprising amount of research before writing each new title. The latest, involving horse riding, resulted in the visit to a riding school near Mildenhall where she took dozens of photographs as an aid to memory. Jean and her late husband Gareth set up home in Wicken nearly 20 years ago and her daughter Gabrielle has helped with a number of new titles. The first series is being reissued with modern illustrations to keep it abreast with the times 86 04 23a

1986 05 13

American servicemen missed the chance of seeing the Beatles perform at a club on Mildenhall air base in the early 1960s. The man responsible for hiring performers thought the group was too expensive – at £30 for the night. Dusty Miller did book other stars for the Galaxy Club including Johnny Cash, Matt Monroe and Engelbert Humperdinck – then known as Jerry Dorsey. He also appeared at Lakenheath base along with Freddie and the Dreamers, Jim Reeves and up-and-coming comedians Bob Monkhouse and Des O'Connor 86 05 13

1986 07 17

The Powell family started to make cheese at Sutton in 1918 when there was more money in Cambridgeshire cheese than milk. But during the Second World War it was only produced sporadically when milk was available that would not keep. Later Baden Powell bought up all the Sutton Dairies and kept going with milk and cheese until the 1960s. The whole enterprise eventually went to Bridge Farm Dairies of Mildenhall. 86 07 17

1986 08 11

Patrick Woods' first task when appointed sub-postmaster at Girton 18 years ago was to construct the building itself. For eight weeks 'Postman Pat' had to make do in a little shed, taking everything back to his home in Mildenhall each evening. But business blossomed and the post office and stores in Dodford Lane have become a familiar sight in the village which for a while feared it might lose its post office for ever. Now Mr Woods and his wife are calling it a day. "It's no longer a piggy-bank business. It's very streamlined and we have to spend half the evening doing paperwork", he said 86 08 11a

1987 06 11

Mini nuclear reactors could be installed at major American bases such as Mildenhall, Lakenheath and Alconbury, to provide emergency power. The American Department of Defense is starting a feasibility study into the cost of installing a series of small, pressurised-water nuclear power stations at all its bases throughout the world. At present they have diesel generators to generate electricity in

the event of a failure of supplies from the National Grid. But the Pentagon says these are not capable of sustained operation if national electricity supplies were lost in a nuclear war 87 06 11

1988 06 09

The building firm of F.W.Cocksedge and Sons was launched in Tuddenham half a century ago. The original ledgers show that in 1939 labourers were paid one shilling an hour (5p) while skilled men got one shilling and eightpence. In 1940 jobs included building an eel trap for the Marquis of Bath and the erection of air raid shelters. They made their own breeze blocks, mixed horse hair mortar and also supplied coffins, sometimes even having to collect a body. In 1949 the firm moved to Mildenhall and have won a number of awards for their work, specialising in refurbishing listed buildings. 88 06 09a

1989 06 07

Mildenhall speedway could close because of falling attendances. The season started promisingly after they'd recruited experienced riders like Dane Preben Eriksen but numbers slumped with the results. Last week they crashed to their third successive defeat in front of a crowd of 600 – but need 900 spectators to cover costs. Now one of the Fen Tiger's leading riders, Malcolm Holloway, has quit the struggling National League outfit 89 06 07b

1990 01 12

The former cruise missile base at Molesworth is to become the base for the Joint Analysis Centre and the 497th Reconnaissance Technical Group. It will also be an emergency headquarters for the US Third Air Force in the event of war. Some 750 US military personnel will be based there full time. Some of the former cruise buildings will be modified for their new role but be subject to Soviet inspection under the terms of the INF treaty until 2001. The Third Air Force will keep its permanent peacetime headquarters at RAF Mildenhall. – 90 01 12

1990 01 19

Last American Blackbird spyplane to fly home from Mildenhall – 90 01 19d

1990 04 15

Mildenhall community centre opened – 90 04 15b

1990 08 07

Extravagant spending at American base, Mildenhall – 90 08 07b